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Evidence claims 4 shots fired at JFK

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (AP) — New evidence indicates that four shots were fired, from two directions, at President John F. Kennedy when he was murdered in Dallas 15 years ago, two members of the House assassinations committee said Wednesday.

The Warren Commission found that only three shots were fired, all from the Texas School Book Depository. It also concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in killing Kennedy.

Rep. Harold Sawyer, R-Mich., said the evidence shows "beyond a reasonable doubt" that one of the shots came from the so-called grassy knoll rather than the book depository.

Rep. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., said in Hartford Wednesday night that the new evidence raises serious questions about the possibility that a second gun-

man participated in the assassination.

Sawyer said the disclosure came from two acoustical experts testifying Monday night during an executive session of the assassinations committee.

"They concluded that there were four shots, the third of which was fired from the grassy knoll," Sawyer reported. He said the experts testified there was a 95 per cent probability four shots were fired at Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963.

Sawyer said he cannot recall the names of the two who provided the new evidence but he stressed they are experts in the field of acoustics.

"I don't know of any reason not to accept it," Sawyer said about the new evidence. But he added the disclosure "leaves me entirely up in the air" about who killed Kennedy.

In Washington, a committee spokes-

man said there would be no comment on the matter.

A knowledgeable source said: "I don't think Mr. Sawyer would go on the radio and lie."

Officials in the office of Rep. Louis Stokes, D-Ohio, the assassinations committee chairman, also would not comment on Sawyer's report.

The new evidence came from "a refinement of the earlier analysis" of a tape recording made during the Kennedy assassination of the sound coming from a motorcycle police officer's radio. The officer's radio transmitter was left on for about 5½ minutes, including the period when Kennedy was shot.

Sawyer described the technique used as one which allowed the experts to refine sounds on the tape "down to a very narrow window" so they could study tiny details, such as building echoes.

Dr. James E. Barger, an acoustics expert who testified at a public session of the committee Sept. 11, had said his work on the tape showed a 50-50 possibility there were four shots, with one

from the grassy knoll.

Sawyer said Barger studied the more recent work of the other two experts and agreed with their conclusion that four shots were fired. "Barger was there and he was totally in concurrence," Sawyer added.

Sawyer said "I'm probably in hot water on the whole thing" by disclosing testimony from an executive session. But he added, "the information is going to be made public anyway. It's not anything top secret."

The information emerged while Sawyer was appearing on a talk show at a Grand Rapids radio station. The congressman said he had no idea the program would focus upon the Kennedy assassination, but a college professor questioned him closely on the matter.

"There was no way I could answer them without getting into this," Sawyer said about the professor's questions.

Asked what will happen because of the new evidence, Sawyer said he is uncertain. The committee's work is supposed to be completed by Dec. 31.